

## ***FWP COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** December 9, 2010

**Agenda Item:** Four-Year Waiting Period for Some Either Sex Elk Permits

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Approval of Proposed Rule

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 20 minutes

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**Background:** This proposal is to implement a four-year waiting period specific "either sex" elk permits. The permits would include limited entry antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk permits with drawing odds of 10 percent or less. The odds would be based on first choice resident and nonresident applicants from the previous year's application/drawing results. If an applicant receives any either sex elk permit that had a drawing success rate of 10 percent or less the previous year, that hunter must wait four years before applying for any either sex elk permit with a 10 percent or less drawing success rate based upon the previous year's drawing results. For instance, any applicant receiving one of these either sex elk permits in 2011 would not be eligible to apply for any other either sex elk permit with a drawing success rate of 10 percent or less until 2016. The list of specific permits with drawing odds of 10 percent or less would be updated annually and may change annually based upon the previous year's drawing results.

Currently available antlered/brow-tined/either sex elk permits that fall into this category based upon the 2010 drawing are: 282-20, 283-20, 310-20, 339-20, 380-20, 401-20, 410-20, 426-20, 441-20, 447-20, 500-20, 502-20, 620-20, 621-20, 622-20, 631-20, 632-20, 690-20, 690-21. Any person receiving one of these elk permits in 2011 would have to "wait" four years before applying for any either sex elk permit that has drawing odds of 10 percent or less based on the previous year's drawing results.

The proposed waiting period applies to the person, not the land. A landowner who qualifies for landowner preference would not be exempted from the proposed four-year waiting period. The land, however, would remain eligible for use every year of the wait period for the landowner's designee who has not drawn one of these permits in any of the previous four years.

Additionally with this proposal, for each or any year of the waiting period, a qualifying landowner may secure an either sex elk permit valid only on his/her deeded land via a hunting access contract as defined by "HB 454 access agreements". This option—already available for implementation—requires FWP Commission approval to allocate a permit to a landowner in exchange for agreed-to public elk hunting access.

**Public Involvement Process & Results:** In addition to public comment at the Dec. 9 Commission meeting, public comment will run from Dec. 10 thru 5 p.m. Friday, Jan. 14, 2011. Final adoption by the FWP Commission would be on Feb. 10, 2011.

**Alternatives and Analysis:** Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2010 (status quo) as per staff justifications, public comment and/or Commission discussion.

**Agency Recommendation & Rationale:** The more definitive result of this action is to eliminate the possibility for the any one individual to draw the same long-odds type of permit more than once in any four years. While this proposal would not significantly increase drawing odds in most districts, it is possible that some districts could exhibit improved odds to slightly greater than 10 percent after four years of restricted entry. Based upon 2010 quota numbers, the number of hunters "waiting" will grow to approximately 2,560 after four years before individuals drawn the first year will be eligible to apply again. It is unknown what application/hunting efforts—and the associated results—any "waiting" hunters will engage for the subsequent four years after drawing one of these permits. Possibilities include making no permit applications to applying for other permits not now on this proposed list.

**Proposed Motion:** I move the Commission adopt the proposed four-year waiting period for some elk permits as presented by FWP.